

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Docket No. AB-863X

CITY OF VENICE—ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION—
IN VENICE, IL AND ST. LOUIS, MO

Decided: January 15, 2004

On December 9, 2003, the City of Venice, IL (City) filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F—Exempt Abandonments to abandon its entire 2.00-mile line of railroad, between milepost 0.55 near Branch Street Yard in St. Louis, MO, and milepost 0.0 at the state line at Venice, IL, and milepost 0.00 at Venice and milepost 1.45 at McKinley Junction, IL. The notice was served and published in the Federal Register (68 FR 75021) on December 29, 2003, and is scheduled to become effective on January 28, 2004. On December 29, 2003, the Terminal Railroad Association of St. Louis (TRRA) filed comments, asserting that the City is not a railroad and that the notice of exemption should be rejected.¹

On January 13, 2004, the City filed a motion for a scheduling order. The City indicates that, under the Board's procedures, its reply to TRRA's comments is due by January 20, 2004, which would be 20 days after TRRA's comments were filed. The City requests permission to file its response to TRRA's comments by February 9, 2004, which would be 20 days after the January 20, 2004 due date set in the notice of exemption for petitions to reopen.

The City will be granted an extension until January 23, 2004, to respond to TRRA's comments.

It is ordered:

1. The City's response to TRRA's comments is due by January 23, 2004.

¹ On January 6, 2004, TRRA filed a petition to stay the effective date of the notice of exemption; the City responded to the stay request on January 13, 2004. The stay request will be considered in a separate decision.

2. This decision is effective on its service date.

By the Board, David M. Konschnik, Director, Office of Proceedings.

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary